

JOINT STATEMENT of the Utah High School Activities Association and the Utah State Board of Education

The central purpose of schooling is the academic program of studies for students. However, supportive to the instructional program is a diversity of school sponsored student activities that are frequently an extension of the academic program. They include such things as musical and dance performing groups, forensic and sports teams, student publications and government, clubs and social activities, etc. Those involved in student activities generally achieve better grades, attendance, citizenship, and personal discipline than do nonparticipants.

Excesses and abuses in student activities detract from the central purpose of schooling.. Keeping the academic program and the student activity program in perspective (excellence without excess) is the rationale for the following required **standards and guidelines**.

Standards

A. Activity disclosure statements. (SBE 53A-3-420)

1. A local school board shall require the development of activity disclosure statements for each school-sponsored group, club, or program which involves students and faculty in grades 9 through 12 in contests, performances, events, or other activities that require them to miss normal class time or takes place outside regular school time.
2. The activity disclosure statements shall be disseminated to the students desiring involvement in the specific activity or the students' parents or legal guardians or to both students and their parents.
3. An activity disclosure statement shall contain the following information:
 - (a). the specific name of the club, team, group, or activity;
 - (b) the maximum number of students involved;
 - (c) whether or not tryouts are used to select students, specifying date and time requirements for tryouts, if applicable;
 - (d) beginning and ending dates of the activity;
 - (e) a tentative schedule of the events, performances, games, or other activities with dates, times, and places specified if available;
 - (f) if applicable, designation of any nonseason events or activities, including an indication of the status, required, expected, suggested, or optional, with the dates, times, and places specified;
 - (g) personal costs associated with the activity;
 - (h) the name of the school employee responsible for the activity; and
 - (i) any additional information considered important for the students and parents to know.

B All head coaches at any level and any coach paid by the school must hold a current Utah Secondary Teaching License or successfully complete the UHSAA/USOE Coaches Training Program. Volunteer assistants not paid by the school must serve under the direct supervision of a licensed teacher. (See Standard and Guidelines for Coaching Preparation and Competency. SBE 1-20-84.)

C. All school leaders including administrators, student activity leaders, coaches, assistant coaches, etc., should become acquainted with and adhere to Utah Code 53 A-11-908 and 53 A-13-101(4), thereby setting positive role models for students and others.

D . School personnel, activity leaders, coaches, advisors, etc., shall not require students to attend out-of-school camps, clinics, workshops, etc., for which they, activity leaders, coaches, advisors, etc., receive remuneration from a source other than the school or district in which they are employed.

Guidelines

A. Local boards of education and district superintendents should continually reaffirm the central purpose of schooling - the academic program of students. Extracurricular activities should support the academic program.

B. Local boards of education, superintendents, and school principals should provide productive instruction for students who remain behind while their classmates and teachers are gone for participation in extracurricular activities.

C. Local boards of education and district superintendents should disapprove travel for extracurricular activities that result in teachers and students being gone for more than two consecutive school days.

D. The Utah High School Activities Association and schools should continue the practice of delaying the starting time for extracurricular activities until after school. In addition, the periodic realignment of the regions of the Utah High School Activities Association should continually seek to reduce travel and time out of school for students and teachers.

E. Local boards of education and district superintendents should disapprove all travel, trips, excursions, appearances, cruises, etc., which are sponsored by commercial interests for profit. Such travel represents a serious misuse and manipulation of schools and students. Approved travel for extracurricular activities should involve students in verified and documented educational experiences.

F. Applied technology programs of the Utah State Office of Education should continue to reduce and/or eliminate the interruption of daily instruction and school absences which result from student and teacher participation in vocational leadership organizations, competitions, and state, regional, and national meetings. State, regional, and national meetings for vocational leadership students should be scheduled during the summer or at other times when school is not in session.

G. In order to maintain equity in competitive sports programs, school administrators should not schedule full-year fitness and movement (physical education/athletic) classes for specific school teams. In schools where in-season fitness and movement (physical education/athletic) classes are scheduled, such classes shall not be used to violate the starting and stopping dates for practice and competitive play as prescribed by the Utah High School Activities Association.

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